

my own account, an agent to Bale who on his return told me that the bridge would remain.<sup>1</sup>

On the 19th of December the Legislative Body was convoked. It was on a Wednesday. M. Laine was Vice-President under M. Eegnier. A committee was appointed to examine and report on the communications of the Emperor. The report and conclusions of the committee were not satisfactory ; it was alleged that they betrayed a revolutionary tendency, of which M. Laine\* was absurdly accused of having been one of the promoters ; but all who knew him must have been convinced of the falsehood of the charge. The Emperor ordered the report to be seized, and then adjourned the Legislative Body. Those who attentively observed the events of the time will recollect the stupor which prevailed in Paris on the intelligence of this seizure and of the adjournment of the • Legislative Body. A thousand conjectures were started as to what new occurrences had taken place abroad, but nothing satisfactory was learned.

I considered this a great mistake. Who can doubt that if the Legislative Body had taken the frank and noble step of declaring that France accepted the conditions of Frankfort they would not have been listened to by the Allies ? But the words, " You are dishonored if you cede a single village acquired by a *S&natus-consulte*" always resounded in Napoleon's ears: they flattered his secret thoughts, and every pacific proposal was rejected.<sup>2</sup>

The members of the adjourned Legislative Body went as usual to take leave of the Emperor, who received them on a Sunday, and after delivering to them the speech, which is very well known, dismissed *the rebels* with great ill humor, re-

<sup>1</sup> We here get a glimpse of some treacherous intrigue, part of the proceedings for which Bourrienne was afterwards thanked by Louis XVIII.. How Bourrienne, a simple private individual, could be concerned in knowing that the bridge would be preserved for the use of the Allies, lie does not inform us. He could have no proper reason for sending a private agent. If he wanted the information for his friend Savary he need not have provided the man. As for the passage of the Rhine at Bale, see the note a few pages farther on.

<sup>2</sup> This unhappy sentiment must be compared with that of 1870, when the demands of Germany were met by the phrase, " Not a stone of our fortresses,

not an inch of our territory." The Republic of 1870 yielded,  
Napoleon did  
not.